

Quail Valley Proposed Septic System Prohibition

Public Meeting
December 8, 2005
At Canyon Lake Middle School

Up To Now

- **Winter 2004/2005, we were notified of the septic system problems in Quail Valley.**
- **January 2005, we set up a septic system discussion group with local and regional agencies.**
- **Early 2005, Riverside County Environmental Health conducted a survey of the area and found that 37% of those surveyed had sewage or greywater discharges due to failing septic systems.**



SAMPLE RESULTS:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Enterococcus | 30,000 |
| Fecal Strep | 50,000 |
| E-coli | 500 |
| Fecal Coliform | 500 |
| Total Coliform | 1,400 |

A septic tank is sitting in a hole that is carved out of rock. This hole is half full with groundwater and is located approximately 15 feet uphill from one of the streams that runs through this neighborhood.





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Board Directive

On April 15, 2005, we presented a short summary of the septic system problems in the Quail Valley area to our Board. Our Board directed us to evaluate all options, including a prohibition on septic system use, to address this problem.

Further Actions

- On June 6, 2005, we held a Town Hall Meeting in Quail Valley
- We received a lot of comments at that meeting and by mail and email.
- The comments from that meeting and the comments received tonight will all be summarized, responded to, and posted on our website

Tonight

- We will discuss the proposed Basin Plan Amendment to prohibit septic systems in Quail Valley area.
- Environmental Checklist
- EMWD Feasibility Study
- Public Comments



Proposed Area of Prohibition – Quail Valley



Overview of Proposal

- Board staff evaluated the septic system problems in Quail Valley and prepared a staff report (This will soon be available on our website).
- Board staff considered different alternatives to address the public health and water quality problem.
- Based on the large number of very small lots, elevated groundwater and very poor soil conditions in this area, it is obvious that sewerage this area is the only feasible alternative to the septic system.
- To include a septic system prohibition for Quail Valley, the Basin Plan will have to be amended.

Basin Plan Amendment Process

- Prepare a Staff Report (done) and the BP amendment
- Comply with CEQA (Environmental Checklist Prepared)
- Peer Review of Staff Report (pending)
- Board Conducts a Public Workshop (currently scheduled for February 15, 2006)
- Board Conducts a Public Hearing to consider the proposed Basin Plan amendment (tentatively scheduled for April 20, 2006)

BP Amendment Process (contd)

- Staff presents Basin Plan Amendment proposal to the Regional Board at a public hearing.
- Following adoption by the Regional Board, the Executive Officer forwards the amendment to the State Water Resources Control Board for its consideration.
- Following State Board approval of the amendment, the Regional Board files a Notice of Decision with the Secretary of the Resources for public posting for a period of at least 30 days, and State Board's Executive Director forwards the plan or amendment to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for its approval.

Septic System Prohibition

Current Proposal:

- Once sewers are available to service a property, then that property must properly abandon its septic system and install a lateral connection to the sewer.
- If a sewer system is not or cannot be designed to serve a lot, if no future plans will provide sewer service for that lot, and if the system is functioning properly and is not affecting public health or water quality, then the lot owner will likely not be required to abandon the septic system. Depending on the lot and other issues, the homeowner may or may not be required to upgrade the existing system, or install an alternate disposal system.
- Prohibition will to be tied to availability of sewers.

Environmental Checklist

■ The Environmental Checklist

- Description of the proposed activity: *Most residents in Quail Valley use septic systems for disposal of sanitary wastewater. These systems are failing at an alarming rate causing public health and water quality problems. Eastern Municipal Water District is proposing to extend sewer service to Quail Valley area to enable the residents in the area to dispose of sanitary wastewater to the sewer system. A prohibition on the use of septic systems in the area is required to address the public health and water quality problems caused by the failing septic systems. Such a prohibition would require the existing septic systems to be connected to the sewer system and new developments will be prohibited the use septic systems and will also have to connect to the sewer system. Section 13280 of the California Water Code provides for amending the Basin Plan to include such a prohibition. The project involves the adoption of a Basin Plan Amendment to prohibit the use of septic systems in Quail Valley.*

Environmental Checklist cont'd

- The Secretary for Resources certified the basin planning process as exempt from certain requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including preparation of an environmental impact report [Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15251 (g)]
- Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3777 requires that an Environmental Checklist and a written report be prepared for any proposed Basin Plan Amendment
- Less than significant impact to: hydrology and water quality, population and housing, and utilities and service systems
- Overall: No Adverse Environmental Impact

Next Steps

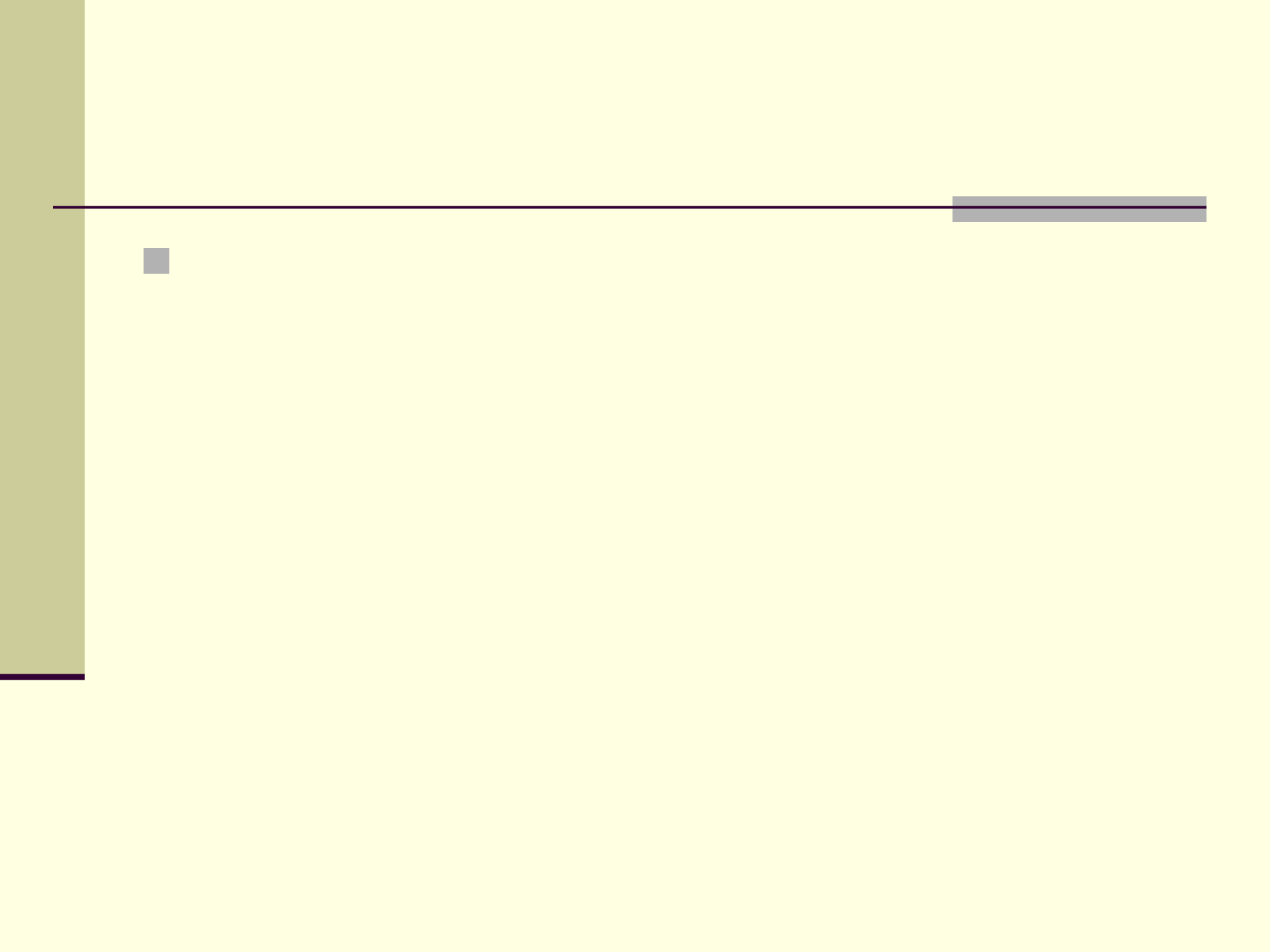
- A Notice of Filing and Notice of Public Workshop are mailed to all interested individuals and parties, (Federal, State, and local), organizations, local newspapers, and libraries at least 45 days before the Regional Board hearing for the proposed plan or amendment;
- Copies of the proposed plan or amendment, environmental checklist and staff report are posted on the Regional Board homepage, or provided to interested parties upon request to the Regional Board office; and,
- Board staff prepares written responses to comments received during the public review period.

Public Comments Welcome

- Comment Box Here Today - we encourage you to submit written comments

- Please visit our websites:
 - www.Waterboards.Ca.Gov/santaana
 - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/html/quail_valley.html

- Additional Quail Valley Comments are welcome anytime by mail:
 - Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
ATTN: Quail Valley Septic Tank Staff
3737 Main St. Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501



Summary

- Surfacing septic tank effluent
 - Very poor subsurface soil conditions and geology for subsurface disposal systems
 - Worsened by high density, hilly topography and high groundwater
- Significant threat to public health and water quality



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Summary (cont'd.)

- With knowledgeable and energetic help of Eastern Municipal Water District
 - Grants, low-interest loans, and environmental fines from other water quality violators
 - Develop and implement the least costly alternative
- Protect public health, protect downstream drinking water supplies, safely disposal of sewage, and increase property values

Summary (cont'd.)

- If residents reject measures to address failing systems and non-failing systems that contribute to downstream failures
 - Regional Board must consider
 - Schedule to abandon all such systems
 - Install vaults that must be pumped
 - Alternative systems (mound, evaporation, etc.)
- Enforcement on individual basis